GENERAL FEDERATION
OF
IRAQI WOMEN
Secretariat of Studies and Researches

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A Practical Translation to the Objectives of the Revolution in Work and Creativity

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MR. SADDAM HUSSEIN, HEAD OF THE REVOLUTION'S COMMAND COUNCIL,
PRESIDENT OF THE IRAQI REPUBLIC

Introduction

Eversince the emergence of the July 17-30, 1968 National Socialist Revolution, our people have been experiencing one of their most prosperous stages of construction and progress, a stage of the highest rate of productivity and welfare. Said one of the major international news agencies: «July 17, 1968 is the beginning of the new political history of Iraq, when the Arab Socialist Baath Party took over the leadership of the state and the society».

The activity which has turned the whole country, including its urban and rural areas, into a huge workshop, has not been limited to any particular group or social class, but has rather encompassed all citizens who believe in the purposes of the party and the revolution and all those who aspire to achieve progress, liberty and a better socialist future not only for our people in Iraq but also for all the people of our Arab Nation in our vast Arab homeland.

In fact,the most enthusiastic and productive popular groups have been those groups which suffered most from tyranny under the former

regimes, inasmuch as they consider the July 17, 1968 Revolution a rescuer, liberator and a starting point through the roads of sunny progress.

The Iraqi woman was among those groups that suffered double oppression: one practiced by the reactionary regimes backed by international imperialism, and the other imposed by the outmoded traditions and hackneyed customs which denied the woman her most fundamental rights and freedom, treating her as a servile subject under the authority of man.

The July 17-30 National Socialist Revolution has consolidated the position of the woman, granting her the fundamental freedoms, independence, and economic liberty. It has provided her with all the work opportunities and eliminated the customary obstacles. Therefore, it is easy to understand why the masses of women support the Revolution and its bold leadership and enlist all their powers and potentialities to serve the revolution and help realize its sublime objectives.

The Basic Attitude Toward Women and Their Rights:

The attitudes of the July 17 Revolution toward the woman, her freedom, her total equality with

the man in all rights, have not been taken at random, or hastily or under a temporary pressure. They have rather been compatible with the principles of the party concerning the liberation of the society and the equality for all. The Revolution firmly believes in the liberation of this one half of the society that was paralyzed by traditions throughout the previous regimes.

From the very first day of its establishment, the party has refused all forms of discrimination due to sex, race, color, or religion. The isolation of one half of the nation from taking part in the public life is unquestionably a repudiation of the contemporary revolutionary human thought, and a weakening factor in the process of fighting imperialism, Zionism and reactionism.

The literature and documents of the Party reflect such a belief. Moreover, its constitution of 1947 provides in Article 12: «The Arab woman enjoys all the rights of a citizen». It also asserts that «the Party struggles to promote the level of the woman to enable her to enjoy fully those rights». Furthermore, «the family is the cell and basic unit of the nation, and the state should protect it, develop it and secure its happiness». The political report issued by the Eighth Regional Conference of the Arab Socialist Baath Party

affirmed that «the objective of liberating the Arab woman from all the economic, social, and legislative antique restrictions, and providing all the conditions necessary for her effective participation in the Arab society and in the Arab awakening which the Arab Socialist Baath Party calls for, is one of the foremost objectives which the Party adopts and strives to realize». The Party has considered that the problem of the cultural, social, and economic backwardness of the Arab woman is the gravest obstacle to contemporary Arab progress, since it directly and unfavorably affects a large number of societal aspects, particularly the raising of children.

The call of the Party to liberate the woman and grant her equal treatment with the man was not a mere slogan for local consumption, but was rather a radical and true atitude. Hence, after the Revolution, the Party reaffirmed that the backward cultural, economic, and social conditions of the Arab woman, along with its inequality with the man, theoretically, practically, and legally, will impede the required radical and comprehensive changes in society. The Party called on its organizations, supporters, and masses to «expose the reactionary trends and conceptions that degrade the woman, and to struggle against such trends and conceptions».

The Party and the Popular Organizations:

The Party attached great importance to the struggling mass organizations . It dedicated its most able elements to carry out the task of leading and guiding those organizations which are regarded as the bridges along and through which the masses communicate and associate. The Party firmly believes that the struggle of those organizations will not be a substitute to the political organization and its leading struggle; it will rather constitute a complementary element to that struggle.

The reactionary regimes will not fall, and the radical change will not take place, except through the total political and economic liberalization of society. The Party has highly valued the role that may be performed by such popular organizations in enabling the political vanguard to lead the transformation process, to disseminate the ideas of the Party, and to prepare for the Revolution. The Party has also highly valued the role of such organizations in positive struggle, in organizing and mobilizing the masses to protect and deepen the achievements of the Revolution and to turn Iraq, after the victory of the Revolution, into an

enlightening center vis-à-vis the other parts of the Arab homeland.

Amidst the fierce struggle against the dictatorial and reactionary regimes, the Party set up its struggling popular organizations with a view toward the organization and mobilization of the various sectors of the people in progressive units. «The Republic's Women Organization» was set up and started to function publicly following the staging of the Revolution of February 8, which the Party carried out against dictatorship. The imperialist reactionary plots, however, prevented that bold revolutionary experiment from implementing its objectives. The Party had, consequently, to go back to negative struggle after the ominous setback of October of the same year.

But the revolutionary arm of the Arab revolutionary movement, namely the Arab Socialist Baath Party, which had been inured in revolutionary struggle, soon mobilized the revolutionary popular forces and staged the National Socialist Revolution of July 17-30, 1968. The Party employed all its capabilities and experiences in a continual process of unwavering progress and advancement. Within a short period of time, it has become a guiding torch to the masses of our Arab people and the peoples

progress, social development, and represents their aspirations toward progress, social development, and national unity. Its achievements in the fields of development, national struggle and international relations, along with its support to the liberation movements in the world, have been an influential model admired and supported by our people as well as by the peoples of our area and the world.

THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI WOMEN

One of the Fruits of the Revolution

When the Party had to resume its negative struggle following the ominous October setback, under the hardest circumstances of oppression, persecution and tyranny, it was joined by the popular organizations associated with it in ideology and struggle. The Republic's Women Organization resumed its secret functioning, and was later dissolved. In fact, women's associations and groups performed a prominent role in the overall work of the Party and its various sub-organizations.

When the great victory was realized on July 17, 1968, the Republic's Women Organization had been disbanded, as we have just pointed out. Immediately after the Revolution, the General Federation of Iraqi Women was established and succeeded the said Organization. The General Federation soon took a leading position among the masses of women, through the support it won from the Party and the Revolution and the rallying of women around their struggling Federation.

On 4/4/1969, the General Federation of Iraqi Women held its first conference which determined the role of the Federation as a popular organization possessing a legal status as an entity representing all the women of Iraq from all sectors and groups, and expressing their hopes and aspirations toward a free and decent life and toward overcoming the backwardness and isolation imposed on Iraqi women, pursuant to the conception of the Party and its faith in the liberation of women and their equal treatment with men in rights and duties, as well as its faith in the role of women in the national struggle.

The Federation has embraced huge numbers of Iraqi women through its ability to express their purposes and hopes. The members amounted to 157662 on 31/8/1979. The Federation has branches in all parts of the country, in whose functions Iraqi women participate without distinction as to race, religion, language, or social background.

On April 22, 1972, the General Federation of Iraqi Women held its fourth conference, under the slogan, «Woman's Contribution in the New Society Speeds up the Revolutionary Social Changes». In the light of the work of the above-mentioned conference, and in view of the

great achievements of the Federation, and upon a request presented by the members of the Federation to get more support, the Revolution's Command Council promulgated Law No. 139 of December 9, 1972. The Law consolidated the status of the Federation, specified its duties and functions in preparing and mobilizing the Iraqi women to enable them to perform their effective role in the battle of the Arab Nation against imperialism, Zionism, reactionism, and backwardness. The Law also emphasized the role of the Federation in raising the level of the Iraqi woman by all the possible means, and the necessity of ensuring her full equality with the man in all the political, economic, and social spheres.

Along that vein, the Revolution's Command Council promulgated the First Amendment Law to the Law of the Federation of Iraqi Women, No. 85 of 1976. This amendment focused upon the objectives of struggle that shall be realized by the Federation. It also considered the Federation a public utility institution having a separate legal status, peronality and capacity and enjoying financial and administrative, autonomy. The Federation is, therefore, a progressive, democratic, popular organization representing all the women

of Iraq without any distinction or discrimination as to race, language, religion, or social background. It is also an inseparable part of the progressive women's movement in the Arab World, and an extension to the liberal, democratic women's movement in the world.

The Law determined the purposes of the Federation, expressing the aspirations of all the Iraqi women, as follows:

On the Regional Level

1 – Preparing and mobilizing the women of Iraq to perform their effective role in the fight of the Arab Nation against imperialism, Zionism, reactionism and backwardness, and in the civilizational progress and the setting up of the unified, socialist, democratic Arab society.

2 – Enhancing the position of the woman in Iraq by all the available means; ensuring her enjoyment of equal rights with the man in all the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural spheres; providing equal work opportunities and enabling the woman to occupy key positions in the administration of the state; protecting her rights and interests; and abolishing the laws, customs, regulations, and practices that involve any discrimination against her.

3 – Protecting the national unity through the disseminetion of the progressive, national consciousness among women; promoting the relations of solidarity and struggle with the popular and professional organizations in rendering services and in popular work and civil defense; participating in the enterprises and projects of economic and social development in Iraq.

4 – Supporting the family and providing due care to mothers and children.

On the National Level

1 – Developing the brotherly ties among Arab women in all the Arab countries; exchanging experiences and seeking to cooperate in developing those experiences.

2 – Achieving a progressive unity for the Arab women's movement through cooperation with the General Federation of Arab Women.

3 – Strengthening the ties of cooperation with the various progressive and nationalistic organizations and leaderships in the Arab homeland, and supporting them by all means and sacrifices against any oppression or persecution.

4 – Participating effectively and seriously in the just Arab Revolution movement seeking to liberate Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories and to eradicate all forms of imperialist and Zionist presence in the Arab homeland in order to establish a society of unity, liberty and socialism.

5 – Participating effectively in the Arab armed struggle and supporting it in the face of all the capitulationist and defeatist trends, as well as promoting it to the level of popular liberation war.

On the International Level

1 – Supporting the revolutionary movements that work towards the ervadication of colonialism, international imperialism, reactionism and all forms of aggression; affirmation of the rights of peoples to independence and self-determination; consolidating the foundations of just international peace.

2 – Achieving the best forms of cooperation with the progressive and friendly women's organizations in the world, and participating effectively in their activities in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Federation.

3 – Endeavoring to acquire membership in the progressive international women's organizations, or concluding bilateral protocols with them in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Federation.

4 – Putting forth, raising and defending our national causes and persuading the international women's organizations to adopt and support the just national rights of the Arab Nation.

5 – Fighting the Zionist and colonialist activities, as well as racial discrimination, class exploitation, and national persecution; and reaffirming the total equality in all rights and obligations of all persons without any distinction due to sex, language, color, religion, or social background.

THE PRACTICAL ASPECT OF THE REVOLUTION'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN

The Law of the General Federation of Iraqi Women represents only the legal framework of the practical attitude taken by the Revolution with respect to women. The practical attitude has, in reality, surpassed that legal facet in a number of ways and cases.

President Saddam Hussein declared:

«What is crucial to us at this juncture is to have the new position acquired by the woman in law, society, and public life generally, and in all fields — to have this position firmly established as a fixed custom to all our society, and not merely a right provided for by the books of law».

«Its is impossible for the Iraqi people to realize all its objectives without correcting the position of the woman in society».

«Any nation that works with half of its power, and eats as a whole, is a backward nation and is unable to build up a prosperous life».

The Revolution has considered it its duty toward humanity, itself, and principles to redress the grievances of women.

In practice, the Revolution provided all the opportumities of work, education and participation in all the fields of life to all women. Laws have been passed, guaranteeing to women equal rights with men and breaking old traditional bonds and chains. The most significant laws are the following: Personal Status Law and its amendments; Labor Law; and Agarian Reform Law.

Since 1976, the woman has joined the popular army, and has been permitted to join the armed forces and to acquire an equal military rank. Other laws have extended the mother's leave before and after delivery, and granted the mother an additional two-year leave to take care of her child under four years of age.

The requisite objective conditions have also been secured. Child care centers, mother care centers, and social care centers have been established.

The woman's role in the political, economic, and social activities has increased and widened. In the field of education, the female students in the elementary level in the academic year 1978-1979 numbered 1,058,695 students out of 2,459,870 students enrolled as a total in that level. In the

intermediary and preparatory level, the female students numbered 231743 out of a total of 781766 male and female students. In the professional training level, there were 12173 female students in the industrial, agricultural, and commercial schools out of a total of 48186.

In the university level, the female students were 26662 in number out of a total of 59449.

As far as the teaching staffs are concerned, the number of the female teachers in kindergartens reached 2862, while their number in the elementary level in the academic year 1978-1979 amounted to 37748 out of a total of 87148 male and female elementary teachers.

In the secondary level, there were 10054 female teachers out of a total staff of 25254. The number of female students granted acceptance to university studies increased from 2378 in 1970-1971 to 7763 in 1978-1979.

The ratios of increase in the number of females in all educational levels have been higher than the ratios of increase in the number of males. In kindergartens, the female ratio rose 130% while the male ratio rose 75%. In secondary education, 132% for females versus 81% for males; and in

universities, the female increase registered 156% with only 91% for males.

Women have also been increasingly active in the various economic sectors. While the number of female workers in the industrial sector stood at seven thousand at the beginning of the Revolution, their number in the large industrial establishments alone reached 20813 in 1976. The number of female workers in the sector of water and electricity rose from 200 in 1973 to 1172 in 1978.

Among 3250 physicians, dentists and pharmacists, there were 976 practicing women in 1978; while among the 7997 in other health related joles, there were 3864 women.

The number of women working in the socialist sector in general up to 31/5/1978, was 105038 out of a total of 662859, i. e. 15.8%, while their number on the same day of 1972 was 48532 out of 392954, i. e. 12.4%.

The number of women covered by social insurance until 31/12/1978 was 52849.

Finally, the equality between man and woman provided for in the Law of the National Council and Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Province

for Autonomous Rule, with respect to nomination and voting, is a striking evidence on the clear humanitarian and progressive stand adopted by the Revolution as well as on the high rank occupied by the Iraqi woman in all spheres and domains of social life.

The General Federation of Iraqi Women

ROAD TO PROGRESS AND SOCIAL SERVICE

The General Federation of Iraqi Women has translated the objectives of the Party and the Revolution, locally and internationally, by implementing them in practical programs compatible with the civilization stage reached by our country, and as a part of the general plan of the Revolution concerning the process of social transformation and speedy development.

In January 1977, the Federation held a Special Symposium on the practical formulas for raising the productivity of the working woman. President Saddam Hussein delivered a valuable speech embodying significant guidelines, and participated personally in the meetings. The Symposium considered a working paper presented by the Federation and issued a number of recommendations on development, the productivity of the working woman and the furtherance of her status. The working paper has been considered an important document, and has been admired by the command of the Party and the Revolution, led by President Saddam Hussein.

The Federation performs its functions through a number of specialized secretariats:

1 – Central Secretariat for Information

This secretariat is charged with the propagation of the revolutionary consciousness, the linking of the masses with the purposes of the Revolution and the defense thereof, and the elimination of the reactionary thought detrimental to the woman's development and her participation in the building up of the country. This secretariat sheds light on the overall activities and functions of the Federation and highlights them in the appropriate manner.

Furthermore, this secretariat endeavors to strengthen the relationship between women and their Federation, and to conscientize the women of the pioneering role of the Federation and its services and accomplishments. It also brings to the open all the barriers that impede women's progress and happiness, by means of:

(1) The Women's Magazine which seeks to analyze the problems facing women in a constructive and objective manner, and to call

upon governmental bodies to continue their efforts in eliminating such problems and obstacles. The magazine further deals with the activities of Iraqi women, particularly in the fields of production, as well as those of women in progressive countries. Above all, the magazine has concentrated on the status of the toiling woman, because she has the major interest in the Revolution and in the social change.

(2) The Radio Program, broadcasted twice a week, focuses on the family as the life cell of society, according to the provisions of the Party Constitution and the Interim Constitution of the Iraqi Republic. It speaks about good family relations and urges on the necessity of cooperation between husband and wife for raising a good generation. It treats the good social customs, and the revolutionary laws enacted by the Revolution to further the position of women and the public.

(3) The Woman's Museum, which is a new experiment in the field information, supervised by the Information Secretariat with the cooperation of specialists from the Directorate of Archeology. The Museum is due to open soon, and will display the history of the Iraqi woman.

(4) There are other divisions in this Secretariat, such as the technical division, the photography division, and the pamphets division, all of which perform periodical and continual activities throughout the year, including:

A- Publishing booklets and pamphlets containing information on the achievements of the Party, the Revolution, and the General Federation of the Iraqi Women.

B- Producing posters, folders and stickers relating to the advancement of woman under the Revolution.

C- Celebrating information days throughout the country on various national occasions including the Iraqi Woman Day, the International Child Year, etc.

D- Producing movies, mainly documentary films.

(5) The Central Photography Division, which supervises eighteen photography divisions and trains female photographers from among the members of the Federation. The Division also supplies the Magazine, the News Division and the Information Secretariat with the required photographs and slides. It takes photographs for

all the activities of the Federation, including conferences, festivals, seminars. The Photography Division has made more than one hundred photographic exhibitions throughout the world. One exhibition was on the eradication of illiteracy, and another was on the popular work camps. It also participated in the cultural weeks held in Warsaw and Moscow by making two photographic exhibitions in 1979.

2 – Secretariat for Health Affairs

This Secretariat has the following objectives:

1 – Enhancing the health of women by all the possible means.

2 – Cooperating with the official and non-official institutions concerned with women, amily, childhood and motherhood. It encourages women to join such institutions and participate in their activities.

3 – Establishing and managing institutions concerned with the promotion of the cultural, social, and health conditions of women, family, motherhood and childhood.

4 – Holding symposiums and debates on matters of health, and delivering lectures and films

on such matters to propagate cultural and health consciousness in society.

5 – Taking part in researches and studies concerned with promoting the welfare of women, mothers and children.

6 – Endeavoring to ccoperate with the authorities for the initiation of institutes specialized in studying the status of motherhood and childhood in Iraq.

7 – Urging women to join the profession of nursing in all its levels.

8 – Promoting health and providing care for pregnants and for children.

The Secretariat has put those purposes and objectives into effect, and is still doing so, through its health branches by carrying out the following activities:

1 – Holding a large number of health symposiums on pregnancy and the health of the mother and child.

2 – Projecting health movies once every two weeks.

3 – Delivering lectures on nutrition, especially its development in rural areas.

4 – Coordinating with the health institutions to hold health festivals in which medical analyses and diagnoses on thousands of women are done.

5 – Receiving children in the vaccination center of the Federation, and organizing vaccination campaigns in rural areas.

6 – Making information campaigns on family planning and its relation with the health and living standards of families.

7 – Conducting a special study on child care and mother care in Iraq.

8 – Making radiation survey compaigns in rural areas in coordination with the official health institutions.

9 – Encouraging young girls to join nursing.

10 – Taking all unlicensed midwives in the health seminars held by the Health Ministry in order to provide them with technical training and scientific knowledge.

11 – Contacting health concerns to supply the clinics and laboratories of the Federation with medicines and materials.

12 – Celebrating the Nurse Day and honoring a number of nurses.

13 – Paying visits to patients in hospitals on feasts and other occasions.

14 – Opening sessions on family planning for female member doctors.

15 – Opening five female clinics in five governorates.

16 – Making circumcisions, taking blood from volunteers, and holding weeks for cleanliness and hygiene, and several other activities.

3 – Secretariat for Eradications of Illiteracy

An illiterate woman cannot exercise her rights. The Revolution has endeavored to eradicate illiteracy, particularly among women.

The Law of the General Federation of Iraqi Women has asserted the necessity of raising the standard of women in Iraq by all possible means. The Federation's effective contribution in the comprehensive national campaing for the eradication of illiteracy has stemmed up from a number of considerations, the most important of which are the following:

1 – The Federation represents at least half the society since it represents all women.

2 – Illiteracy among women is higher than illiteracy among men.

3 – The abilities of the Federation and its capability to prompt illiterate woman to join the eradication of illiteracy centers which spread throughout the country.

The Eradication Illiteracy Secretariat has devised a flexible plan, adaptable to the varying conditions and circumstances of the women in every region. The eighth conference of our Federation has adopted the following recommendations:

1 – Preparing a central pamphlet to be used by female students in the follow-up stage. This recommendation has been carried out.

2 – Urging the female students that have stopped attending classes to reattend.

3 – Preparing studies on the phenomenon of non-attendance at the centers.

4 – Publishing cultural periodicals in which the female students may participate.

5 – Requesting the authorities to initiate kindergartens for the children of the female students.

6 – Coordinating with the authorities for establishing night schools for female graduates of the eradication of illiteracy centers.

7 – Coordinating with the Development of the Rural Woman Committee to urge rural women to join the centers.

8 – Making exhibitions that display objects produced by the female students.

In addition to its participation in the comprehensive national campaign for the eradication of illiteracy, the Secretariat has disseminated information explaining the importance of compulsory education, through the holding of symposiums, the publication of reports in the Magazine, and the holding of cultural festivals in the rural areas.

The Secretariat, moreover, has conducted a sample survey on the families not covered by compulsory education and the eradication of illiteracy. Posters displaying the ideas of such campaigns have been distributed in popular districts.

Among other things, the Secretariat has selected a number of topics for research, writing, follow-up, and education, including:

1 – Woman and her role in the eradication of illiteracy.

2 – Woman's participation in the development plan creates a society free of illiterates.

3 – The new generation is built up by the educated woman.

4 – Ignorance is the first impediment against advancement and civilization.

5 – The nation's civilization is accomplished by its educated and creative sons.

6 – The eradication of illiteracy is one of the rquirements for the development of the rural areas.

7 – Establishment of socialism and the conditions for the success of the campaign for the eradication of illiteracy.

8 – The follow-up of female students ensures the success of the campaign.

9 – Continual enlightenment and the means for eliminating non-attendance.

10 – Supervision of the eradication of illiteracy centers bridges the gaps between the female teacher and student.

11 – Compulsory education eliminates illiteracy.

12 – Illiteracy is a major impediment to development.

The Federation has est ablished in all its branches and divisions committees for the effectuation of the campaign against illiteracy.

4 – The Federation Office of the Secretariat of the Autonomous Rule Region:

As soon as peace and stability was established in Northern Iraq, the Iraqi women, both Arab and Kurdish, were the first to heal the wounds of that dear part of our country. Pursuant to the Revolution's program of settling the Kurdish question peacefully and democratically, an Office for the Secretariat of the Autonomous Rule Region was established by virtue of the first amendment to the Law of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, No. 85 of 1976. The Office included the Federation's branches in Sulaymaniah, Irbil, Dahuk, and their sub-branches.

Nine specialized committees carry out the functions of the Federation in the Autonomous

Rule Region. These committees are the following:

1 – The Committee of Culture and Arts.

2 – The Committee of Health Activities.

3 – The Committee of Social Activities.

4 – The Committee of Development of Rural Women.

5 – The Committee of Eradication of Illiteracy.

6 – The Committee of Training and Development.

7 – The Committee of Mobilization and Organization.

8 – The Committee of Legal Affairs.

9 – The Committee of Sports Activities.

The leadership of the Party and the Revolution has demonstrated great interest in the said Office, and in particular President Saddam Hussein who supported it materially and morally. Membership in the Sulaymaniah branch has risen 10.37%, and 44.16% in the Dahuk branch.

In cooperation with the bodies concerned, the Office has performed a large number of activities, including: festivals; art exhibitions; lectures; publications; participation in cultural, arts, and information committees; popular markets. religious night gatherings; and celebrating national days.

5 – Secretariat for Foreign Relations:

The principles of the Party and the Revolution, as well as the principles of the Federation of Iraqi Women have emphasized the following issues:

1 – The requirements for Arab struggle, and the fundamental Arab causes, namely Palestine and the Arab Gulf.

2 – Protection of the Revolution in Iraq as a struggle basis for the Arab Revolution movement toward unity, liberty, and socialism.

3 – The belief that the Arab Revolution movement is a part of the international revolution movement. Thus, both should cooperate against imperialism, aggression, and racial discrimination and toward liberty, peace, and progress in the world, although the Arab Revolution movement should maintain its independent character and characteristic features.

4 – The belief in the necessity of establishing good relations in all spheres between the Arab Nation and the nations of the world, in accordance with our interests and principles.

The working plan adopted by the Foreign Relations Secretariat has been in line with those

principles, as follows:

1 – Supporting the revolutionary movements that strive to eradicate colonialism, international imperialism, reactionism, and all forms of aggression, and the affirmation of the right of peoples to independence, self-determination, and just peace.

2 – Full solidarity with the progressive and friendly women's organizations in the world, and effective participation in their activities in accordance with the objectives of the Federation.

3 – Endeavoring to acquire membership in the progressive international women's organizations or concluding bilateral protocols with them in accordance with the objectives of the Federation.

4 – Raising and defending our national causes and persuading the international women's organizations to adopt the just national causes of the Arab Nation.

5 – Fighting Zionism, colonialism, racial discrimination, class exploitation, and national persecution, and affirming the basic equality in rights and duties of all without distinction of any kind, such as race, sex, language, color, religion, or social origin.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat has sought to achieve the following objectives:

1 – Concluding bilateral cooperation protocols with Arab women's organizations.

2 – Stengthening the struggle ties with the women's federations of Palestine, Eretria, and Oman, and lending material and moral support to them.

3 – Stengthening the ties with the women's organizations in the Arab Gulf.

4 – Concluding bilateral cooperation protocols with the women's organizations in the socialist countries.

5 – Strengthening the ties with the women's organizations belonging to those movements that are still struggling for liberation, and lending material and moral support to them.

6 – Stengthening the ties with the women's organizations in Africa.

7 – Stengthening the ties with the women's organizations in Asia, sending them invitations to visit Iraq, and planning towrs and programs for those which do visit Iraq.

8 – Stengthening the ties with the women's

organizations in Latin America.

9 – Establishing contacts with the progressive women's organizations in Western Europe and sending them invitations to visit Iraq.

10 – Strenthening the ties with the diplomatic missions in Iraq.

11 – Issuing color publications in foreign languages expounding the contribution of the Iraqi women in various activities.

12 – Issuing communiqués, declarations and calls in foreign languages on occasions relating to our national causes, and in solidarity with friendly nations.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat has divided its shperes of action as follows:

1 – Arab Homeland:
  a) General Arab Federation of Women.
  b) International Federation of Arab Workers.

2 – Foreign Countries:
  a) U.S.A.
  B) Western European Countries.
  c) Australia.

3 The United Nations.

4 – The International Labor Organization.

5 – Eastern Europe.

a) International Democratic Federation of Women.

b) Soviet Union.

6 – Asian Countries.

7 – Latin American Countries.

8 – African Countries.

The Federation has implemented its plan. It has, for instance, participated in the national days celebrations held in all embassies, issued publications and calls respecting international questions, and published a monthly review on foreign relations.

As regards the concentration on strengthening the ties with non-aligned nations, the Federation held the first conference on the role of women in development in non-aligned nations, whose final communiqué was subsequently considered a basic document in the sixth summit conference of non-aligned nations held in the summer of 1979 in Havana.

On the tenth anniversary of the July 17 – 30, 1968 Revolution, the Federation invited the following friendly nations: Korea China, Vietnam, International Democratic Women's Federation, Peace Council of Finland, African

Countries, Women's Federation in Jordan, Mauritania, Somalia, France, Democratic Yemen, Women's Federation of Palestine, Women's Federation in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Sudan, Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Lebanon, Sri Lanka.

The Federation has established committees in a number of friendly countries to express its opinions and deepen its relations with the progressive and friendly women's organizations in those countries. The committees held special celebrations on the International Woman Day, on behalf of the Federation, in Sofia, Nwakshot, Paris, Abu Dhabi, Moscow, Rome, Tunis, Rabat, Brussels, Prague, Islamabad, Algeria, Tokio, and Somalia.

6 – Secretariat for Legal Affairs

This Secretariat has performed a prominent role in the activities of the Federation. In fact, the political report of the eighth regional conference of the Party pointed out that «the continuance of the old laws and legislations creates today a state of imbalance and inconsistency in society», and «the continuance of the legislations enacted by the bakward and exploitative groups greatly contradicts with the requirements of

revolutionary change undertaken by the Party».

Accordingly, the Federation has attempted through the Legal Affairs Secretariat, to abolish the old ideology that had imposed backwardness on millions of our men and women. The efforts of the Federation have been effective in the enactment of a number of progressive laws, including:

1 – Law of Equality between Man and Woman, No. 191 of 1975.

2 – Law Amending the Law of Civil Service, No. 72 of 1977.

3 – Law Amending the Law of Civil Service, No. 74 of 1977.

4 – Law of Women's Military Service, No. 131 of 1977.

7 – Secretariat of Training and Development

1 – Law of Second Amendment to the Law of Personal Status, No. 21 of 1978.

A number of seminars have been held on: the legal status of the child; the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights; the legal status of the Palestinian woman; and the status of the blind woman. Lectures have been given and studies done on other issues and phenomena, particularly those relating to regulations and laws impeding development.

The educational curricula have been revised; social institutions visited and researched; and radio and television programs used to explain the legal position of the woman and her role in the national development of Iraqi society.

Although this Secretariat was recently established and began functioning in 1976, it has so far held 35 training sessions to the cadres of the Federation and for all standards, and covering the administrative, social and informational fields. The females trained numbered 1440.

Sixteen training sessions will be held during this year to train the officials of training centers, the officials of the family affairs committees, the directors and teachers of kindergartens, the officials of social and sports affairs, the directors of civil defense affairs, the directors of the rural woman committees and the directors of foreign affairs.

Other training sessions seek to improve the members' Arabic language, English language and administrative skills.

8 – Secretariat for Mobilization and Organization

This Secretariat seeks to polarize female elements and to mobilize them and organize them in the Federation as follows:

A) By Enlightenment and Mobilization:

1 – Broadening the popular base of the Federation through the various activities, to spread knowledge among women and urge them to join the Federation.

2 – Endeavoring to attract all female elements to the Federation from all the regions and areas of Iraq, and determining the extent of benefiting from their capabilities.

3 – Suggesting the effective ways and means to attract and polarize female masses and to prepare them to take active part in the activities of the Federation.

4 – Safeguarding the membership in the Federation to consolidate the position of the Federation and to enable it to realize its objectives.

B) By Organization:

This signifies the establishment of branches in areas and districts in the administrative hierarchy according to governorates.

C) Establishment of centers in local quarters and villages within the geographical boundaries of the branches in areas and districts.

Until the end of 1979, the number of branches in Iraq was 222, along with 246 centers. In order to organize the membership of the thousands of female members in the Federation, they are distributed over the specific geographical regions in quarters, streets, schools, institutions, and villages. Liaison members organize their relationships with the Federation. Liaison members are 1154 in urban areas, and 749 in rural areas. Their total number is therefore 1903.

9 – Secretariat for Studies and Research

This Secretariat was set up at the end of 1976 pursuant to a recommendation made by the seventh conference of the Federation held in August 1976.

It prepares studies on the status of the woman in Iraq, and her contributions in all sectors. Those

studies are to be used as indicators for job planning. Other studies include the successful women's practices and experiences in the world, and their relative use in the struggle toward liberation and socialism.

Despite the short period of functioning, this Secretariat has made a number of studies and researches along with holding successful seminars, the most significant of which are the following:

First: Undertaking Scientific Activities

A) Preparation of Studies and Researches: The Secretariat has prepared studies on many issues of interest to the Federation. Some of those were presented to conferences and seminars.

1 – «Planning for Children Needs in the Arab Gulf»; submitted to the conference held by the Arab Woman Committee, Arab League, Basrah, 1976.

2 – «Arab Woman and Some Factors Affecting her Role in Rural Development»; submitted to the conference of Arab agriculture engineers, Baghdad, 1977.

3 – «Factors Affecting the Role of the Woman in Administration»; submitted to the conference

on the woman and the administrative revolution, Cairo, 1977.

4 – «The Role of the Arab Woman in National Planning and Social Development»; submitted to the sixth session of the Arab woman committee, the Arab League, Damascus, 1976.

5 – «The Role of the Rural Woman in the Agricultural cooperation»; submitted to the second agricultural cooperative conference, Baghdad, 1977.

6 – «The Use of Science and Technology in Implementing Social Transformations and Changing the Status of Women»; submitted to the regional symposium on the role of science and technology, Baghdad, 1978.

7 – «Working Paper on the Practical Formulas for Raising the Productivity of Working Women», Baghdad, 1977.

B) Holding Conferences and Seminars:

The Secretariat held two seminars:

1 – A seminar on the Iraqi woman and her development in the Autonomous Rule Region, held on 10-12 April 1978, in cooperation with the University of Sulaymaniah.

2 – A seminar on the child in the Arab Gulf, held in Basrah on 13-15 January 1979, in cooperation with the University of Basrah. Prominent scientific personalities and representatives of international and regional organizations participated in this seminar in which 104 studies were presented.

C) Developing the Federation's Work:

The Secretariat has participated in developing the methods of planning, filing of information, general working methods in the Federation, and especially the establishment of an information bank. It has also laid the framework for the plans of the Federation, and the collection, classification and documentation of data. It contributed in the training of librarians.

D) Organizing Symposiums:

The Secretariat has undertaken the task of organizing symposiums on the productivity of female workers in all ministries and in all levels of work, during the period of August-November 1977. At least 30,000 women participated in those symposiums, in addition to responsible officials of all levels.

Second: Encouragement of Scientific Research

A) Support and Publishing Program:

The Federation has declared the initiation of a project to support scientific research dealing with the question of women, to gather statistics, and to develop the scientific heritage in order to provide the authorities with the necessary information useful in fighting the backwardness of women.

The project includes:

1 – Researchers and writers of university dissertations and papers on the question of women shall be compensated financially for their work.

2 – Providing those researchers with financial and material support to improve the standard of their scientific research.

B) Publication of Studies:

The Secretariat prints and publishes studies and researches submitted to the Federation. So far, 156 studies have been published.

C) Honoring of Researchers and Post-Graduate Students:

Nine post-graduate students who have written papers on women's problems have been honored,

and 150 researchers who have prepared studies submitted to seminars have also been honored.

D) Honoring of Pioneers:

The Secretariat has honored the first pioneers who helped and served the cause of the woman before the 1950s.

Third – Setting up a network of Libraries

A) Establishing a Documentary Library:

The Secretariat has laid the basics for the establishment of a central library containing most publications and sources on women. In addition, the activities of the Secretariat have included:

1 – Supplying the library with about 6500 books.

2 – Subscribing in 200 journals and 100 newspapers.

3 – Acquiring the necessary documents.

B) Preparing of Bibliographies and Indexes.

C) Making Book Exhibitions:

In this regard, the Secretariat has organized the following exhibitions:

1 – First Exhibition on Writings of Service to the Woman's Cause, Baghdad, March 1978.

2 – Second Exhibition on Writings of Service to the Woman's Cause, Sulaymaniah, April 1978.

3 – Third Exhibition on the Books of Service to Childhood.

D) Libraries of the Federation's Branches:

The Secretariat provides the libraries of the branches, which are 18 in number, with publications. The principle of centralization is adopted by the Secretariat regarding the indexing and classification functions of the branches.

Fourth-Establishing Relations With Scientific Organizations

The Studies and Research Secretariat shoulders the responsibility consolidating the ties of the Federation with the Arab and international women's federations, by cultural exchange.

This has been carried out on two levels:

– With institutions and organizations. The countries with whose organizations the Federation has relationships numbered 76 countries, 56 foreign countries and 20 Arab countries. There are also 302 institutions in those countries, including 53 libraries, 89 universities, 99 research institutes, 46 women's organizations and 15 Arab ministries.

– With individuals:

The Secretariat has so far distributed about twenty five thousand documents of its publications.

10 – Secretariat for Culture and Arts

This Secretariat emphasizes the interrelationship between the educational process and the programs of socialist transformation. Theoretical education should be linked with practical application.

Culture:

The cultural and educational process has attempted to prepare special self-education programs and popular enlightemment programs, and to enhance the sense of collective work and collective responsibility by using a system of incentives of activities, including: publishing cultural and educational booklets; holding poetry festivals, and political song festivals.

Arts:

A central theater group has been formed. Besides, many art exhibitions have been organized

and held by this Secretariat, including:

1 – An art exhibition commemorating the tenth anniversary of the July 17-30, 1968

2 – An art exhibition for children's drawings commemorating the same occasion.

3 – A political poster exhibition, 1978.

4 – An exhibition in commemoration of the International Woman Day, on March 8, 1979.

5 – An art exhibition in Madrid in commemoration of the eleventh anniversary of July 17-30 Revolution, in which 37 Iraqi female artists participated.

6 – An exhibition for children's drawing in the Sultanate of Oman.

7 – An exhibition for female and male artists, April 1979.

The committees of Culture and Arts in the branches of the Federation have also performed all cultural and artistic activities under the supervision of the Secretariat. Cultural centers have been established in most cities of Iraq.

During 1979, the Secretariat and its committes carried out the following:

- Holding 2464 cultural symposiums on different topics.
- Following-up 412 cultural subjects.
- Making 217 art exhibitions.
- Giving 124 lectures.
- Making 256 art shows.
- Giving 546 amusement art parties.
- Publishing 204 cultural publications.
- Publishing 24 cultural booklets.
- Initiating 44 cultural sessions.
- Making 282 cultural and artistic festivals.

11- Secretariat of Social, Sports and Arts Activities

The activities performed by this Secretariat during the previous short period numbered 4653, including: 500 popular markets, 45 folkloric exhibitions, 78 popular work campaigns, 44 women gatherings, 873 parties, 24 festivals, 304 sports tournaments, in which 2596 members participed. Besides, 86 sport teams were established, and 94 trips were made.

Center for training of Arab Women Leaders

Six years ago, the need arose for setting up a center for training the center for training of arab women leaders for all Arab women federations and unions of under the auspices of the General Federation of Arab Women.

The Training and Development Secretariat has been hosting in its sessions a number of women trainees from Arab countries, since its foundation in 1976.

In February 1978, the center for training of women was established.. The Federations of Arab Women agreed to have its headquarters in Iraq, where the General Federation of Iraqi Women hosts it at present pending the completion of its permanent headquarters building which will be fully equipped with all the necessary training and rehabilitation tools and requirements.

In addition, the Center undertakes studies and gives consulting to Federations of Arab Women on various activities and concerns relating to their popular functioning.

The Center is currently directed by a women director affiliated with President of the General Federation of Iraqi Women in her capacity as the Under-Secretary General for Foreign Affairs in the General Federation of Arab Women. A board of directors from the officials of the General Federation of Arab Women supervises its plans, oversees its budget and plans its programs.

The Center's Plan of Action:

The Center is supposed to hold at least 12 training sessions every year, for women Arab trainees from all Arab countries. A session about 25-30 trainees.

Until 1979, the Center has been able to carry out the following functions:

1 – Conducting two sessions on leadership skills for Arab trainees, undertaken by the Training and Development Secretariat of the General Federation of Iraqi Women on behalf of the Center.

2 – Nine sessions on leadership and supervisory skills for the leaders of the General Federation of Iraqi Women.

3 – A session on conference management and protocols, in preparation for the conference on the role of the woman in development in non-aligned countries held in May, 1979.

4 – Participation in the sessions of the Arab Center for Administrative Development, held in Spain, Tunisia, and Tanja. These sessions were seven in number.

5 – Making studies and researches on the reorganization and development of the organizational structure of the General Federation of Iraqi Women.

6 – Participation in the preparation of several studies presented to the seminar on children and kindergartens, and on the role of the woman in development presented to the conference on the role of the woman in development in non-aligned countries and developing countries.

The Plan of 1980

The present plan of the Center includes the following:

1 – A session to the directors of kindergartens, whose purpose is to provide them with the

appropriate training. The session has already started.

2 – Sessions on the planning and organization of the plans of action of the Federation, amounting to sixteen sessions, starting in April and ending in June, at the rate of one session every week, for the heads of the branches and divisions of the General Federation of Iraqi Women. Each session includes 30 trainees.

3 – Eight social mobilization sessions on the management of camps, each lasting for one week, starting in September, and at the rate of 30 trainees in each session.

4 – A session for the training of trainers, around 10-15 trainers, to provide them with the training skills they require for undertaking the task of training in the Federation's centers and in the Arab Center at the end of this year.

5 – Two sessions for the directors of kindergartens, starting next October and open for Arab participants. Each session lasts for three weeks.

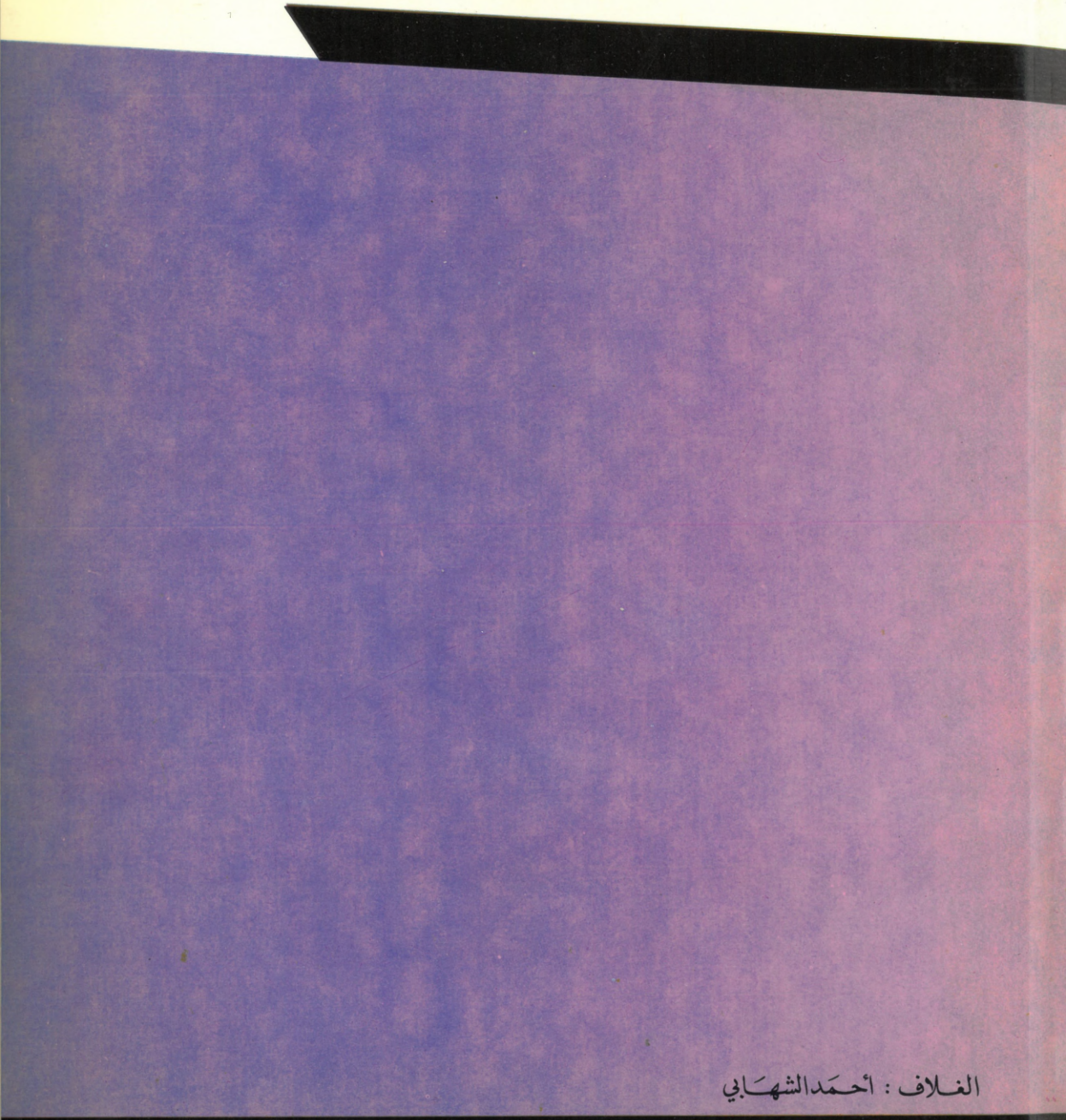
Over and above those various activities, the General Federation of Iraqi Women has embarked on a new project, namely the establishment and management of kindergartens. Today, the Federation manages and directs 44 kindergartens.

A new project is now under discussion: the cooperative distribution of goods and commodities, through consumer cooperatives to be established and run by the Federation in popular areas.

This bright picture of the achievements of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, with the help and support of the leadership of the Party and the Revolution, reflects the great advancement accomplished by our country in all fields, particularly in the field of the liberation of women, her equalization with man, and enabling her to put her potentialities into effect so that she may prove to be an effective member in our new socialist society, the society of unity, liberty and socialism.

The socialist society alone is the one which is able to give practical effectuation to latent creative potentialities, and to ensure the proper atmosphere for creation and production, as expressed in the realities of our country in its revolutionary march under the leadership of our great Party, the Arab Socialist Baath Party and its dauntless historical command, led by President Saddam Hussein.

رقم الايداع ٧٢٣ سنة ١٩٨٠



الغلاف : أحمد الشهابي